

THE MEDINA SENTINEL

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MEDINA IS VISITED BY DISASTROUS FIRE

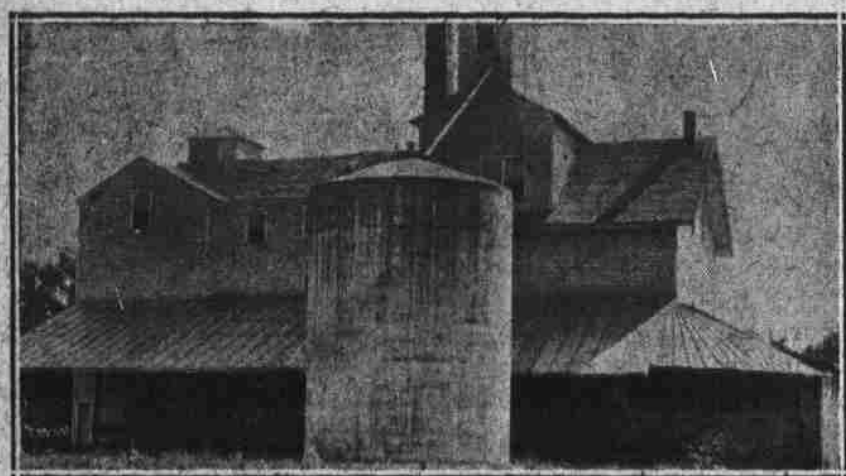
Medina was visited by a triple fire last Friday night, the big flouring mill of O. C. Shepard & Co., Smith road, being totally destroyed, likewise the dwelling house owned by Mrs. Etta Martin of New York city, on Spring Grove street, the latter fire being caused by live cinders blown from the Shepard mill, and a small single story building filled with phosphate belonging to Wm. Rickard. The Martin house was occupied by Ed. Morgan, employed at the Bending Works, who was absent at the time witnessing the conflagration at the mill.

The burning of the Shepard mill entailed a loss of \$35,000. The Martin house was valued at about \$600, while Mr. Rickard puts his loss at about \$2,000. All three buildings carried insurance, the mill for about one-half, Rickard about one-half and the dwelling \$400.

With the mill was consumed about 4,000 bushels of wheat and corn, besides several large bins of feed. A car load of wheat standing on the rail-

ard himself being at loss to explain it. At first it was thought by some to have been of incendiary origin, but this theory was soon abandoned. The fact that the mill had been in operation Friday evening led also to the opinion that the fire might have started in the engine room. But this could not have been since it is now known that the fire originated in the basement of the southeast corner of the mill, where there was nothing but some stored wheat. About the only tenable theory is that tramps loitering about the place may have dropped fire from a pipe into some inflammable stuff, the strong wind blowing at the time fanning the sparks into flame. This theory was held by an insurance adjuster who was in Medina Monday.

The Shepard mill was erected in 1872, by O. C. Shepard, father of the present owners, timber for the superstructure being supplied by Reuben Hyde. At that time there was a sawmill in connection with the gristmill, the former occupying a space of 20x



FRONT VIEW OF THE SHEPARD MILL

road siding was pushed away in time to save it.

The fire was discovered by a member of the W. J. Anderson family, whose home is but a few feet to the south of the mill, about 10:15, and an alarm was promptly turned in. The local fire department responded as quickly as possible, but the fire had gained such headway that all efforts to combat it were fruitless and work was confined to prevent its spreading.

The fire was witnessed by many citizens, most of whom had retired, but awakened by the fire bell dressed and hastened to the scene. It was not until the Shepard mill had crumbled to ruins that the burning of the Martin house was discovered. The fire department responded, but the building was practically destroyed before its arrival. Dr. Will Nichols, residing a short distance from the house was the first to discover the fire and vainly endeavored to extinguish it. Unaided he was able to save a few articles from the burning house.

Opinions differ as to the probable cause of the Shepard fire, Mr. Shep-

60 ft., the latter 30x40 ft., and the engine room 27x87 ft.

Many well-known local citizens have been connected with the mill at various times during the past 45 years, among them John Warner, O. D. Chapin, the first engineer who continued as such for 40 years, and Judge N. H. McClure, who learned the miller's trade there following his graduation from high school. Wm. Shaffer, the present miller, has run the mill since 1905.

Mr. Dwight Shepard announced that the company will rebuild just as soon as arrangements can be perfected and that the new mill will be modern in every respect. Meanwhile he has accepted the generous offer of R. O. Bowman of the use of the latter's warehouse, at the B. & O. depot, for the temporary carrying on of the business. Other mills will manufacture the Shepard company's particular brand of flour for the time being, and it is expected that the company will be able to take care of its customers in all branches of its business in a short time.

MRS. BIGHAM'S DEATH SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

Mystery still shrouds the death of Mrs. Walter Bigham, formerly Miss Mary Fulkers of Spencer, which occurred at her home in Attica, O., on Thursday of last week.

She was found with her heart pierced by a knife, and a quilt covered about her mouth. The first report received was that she had suicided, but later it was learned that her husband had been held in connection with the death.

Mrs. Bigham was born and raised in Spencer. The husband is engaged in the automobile business and is reputed to be a man of wealth.

GOWER-SCHERMERHORN

Mr. Edward H. Gower of Akron, announces the marriage of his sister, Miss Pearl Gower of Cleveland, to Mr. Charles F. Schermerhorn of Wilmerding, Pa., which will be solemnized at the old family home, 224 W. Washington street, Monday, Sept. 2, at noon, by Rev. S. F. Ross, pastor of the M. E. church. The couple will leave at once for a brief honeymoon trip, and will be at home to their friends Oct. 3, in Wilmerding.

Those from away who will witness the ceremony are: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Gower and daughter, Martha Louise and Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Campbell of Mt. Vernon, O.; Mrs. E. O. Swinehart of Bellevue, O.; Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Gower and son, Mason and Guy Swinehart of Akron; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Olmsted, Misses Marie Blanchard, Mary Green and Josie Banknet, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Donaldson, Mr. Augustus Nash, Mr. and Mrs. Warren H. Young, Mrs. Chas. Durning and Miss Sadie Differt, all of Cleveland.

FIVE GENERATIONS

Mrs. Wm. Buffington is the possessor of an unusual photograph of which she is justly proud. It is of five generations from and inclusive of her grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Ives of Cleveland. The others respectively are Mrs. Clara Bates of State Road, daughter; Mrs. Buffington, granddaughter; Mrs. Ray Canfield, great-granddaughter; and Mildred Canfield, 15 months old, great-great-granddaughter.

—There was no matinee held this week by the Medina Driving club.

WADSWORTH MAN HELD ON THREE CHARGES

On a mittimus issued by Mayor F. W. Boyer of Wadsworth, John Nugent, 45, was arrested and brought to Medina Tuesday morning by Marshal Tom Lucas, as was also R. V. Shayer and Ralph Hummel, each 14, contributing to whose delinquency Nugent is charged.

The latter is also charged with burglary and carrying concealed weapons. He entered a plea of guilty to the concealed weapon and delinquency charge, but denied the charge of burglary.

It is said that Nugent and the boys entered the hardware store of Prince & Orr, Wadsworth, Sunday night, Aug. 19, and again last Sunday night, on each occasion stealing pocket knives, razors, cartridges, revolvers, etc.

The boys were given a hearing Thursday before Probate Judge VanDeusen and paroled in the custody of the court.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT WILL BE HERE MONDAY

Medina schools will open on Monday, September 10, under the direction of W. E. Conkle, who succeeds W. S. Edmund as superintendent. The selection of Mr. Conkle was determined upon by the Board of Education on Wednesday of this week, and a telegram of acceptance was received yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Conkle is at present superintendent of the schools at Manchester, O., and resigns there to come to Medina. Previous to his present position he was superintendent of the first grade school at Kelley's Island, and has held with success other similar positions. His recommendations are said to be of the best, and it happens that he was one of the first applicants for the local position, having personally visited the board of education. He is married and has one child, and will come to Medina next Monday, Sept. 3.

NOTED ARCHEOLOGIST TO LECTURE AT GRANGER

Dr. Camden Coburn, a noted archeologist, who has helped to unearth ancient cities, with his own hands, and professor of Allegheny college at Meadville, Pa., will commence a course of lectures at the M. E. church, Granger, beginning Sunday morning, and continuing through the week.

He spoke to a crowded house at the Granger church last evening. He will preach on the "Life of Jesus" Sunday morning and the "Life of St. Paul" Sunday evening. He will also give three lectures on "New Light on the Old Testament," beginning Monday evening.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings he will lecture on "New Light on the New Testament." No admittance will be charged at the door but all who wish to help defray expenses will have a chance to put what they desire in a box within the church.

Dr. Coburn seldom comes to a country town to deliver a lecture, and it is through the efforts of the pastor, E. A. Thompson, that he was obtained at this time.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE BEST EVER HELD HERE

The Medina County Teachers' Institute which has been in session all the week and will close this afternoon, is reported to be one of the most successful ones ever held here, both as to attendance and quality of lectures and entertainment. Teachers from all parts of the county have attended and openly expressed their delight and favor of the institute.

FORGED REGISTRATION CARD

It was reported this week that Blush Gadenec, (serial No. 1548), a Medina conscript, who successfully passed the physical examination here a few weeks ago, was arrested Monday night in the store of Joe Skafec, until recently of Medina, at 2134 Lorain avenue, Cleveland, charged with having substituted another name for his own on his registration card.

The discovery was made, it is reported when he applied to the Goodrich Rubber Co., Akron, for employment. Previously he had worked there and had been discharged. When he applied for work again last week, he was recognized and asked to show his registration card. He denied his identity and left with the statement that he would prove his denial by his card which was at his room. Later when he appeared with the card it bore a different name, leading to his arrest.

LITCHFIELD MAN MAKES BIGGEST WHEAT RECORD

The year 1917 has witnessed the most prodigious wheat crops of any other year in the memory of the oldest Medina county resident, ranging from 25 to 55 bushels to the acre. In fact we have heard of no crop that was not in excess of the normally good yield. But is has remained for John Kruggel of Litchfield township to beat all records of the season. Kruggel is known to be a mighty good farmer in any old season, but this year he is said to have obtained an average of 44 bushels per acre from 55 acres. Reports have been made of a greater average than this from a small number of acres, but no such average from

DEATH CLOSES LIFE OF FRANK O. WILCOX

Frank O. Wilcox was born at Weymouth, Medina county, Dec. 5, 1855, and died at the home of his nephew, James Wilcox, at Medina Center, on Sunday morning, Aug. 26, 1917, from apoplexy, at the age of 61 years.

Mr. Wilcox was educated in the public schools of Weymouth, Granger and Cleveland and subsequently attended the Normal school at Medina for several terms.

He read law in the office of John B. Young and later on with Judge Lewis at Medina and was admitted to practice law at the age of twenty-three. He taught school for several years in Liverpool township, and the villages of Abbeyville, Valley City and Strongsville.

He was postmaster at Hinckley from 1893 to 1897.

Mr. Wilcox was a member of the State Election Board for Medina county for a number of years, and during the last three years was president of the board.

He owned and operated a farm at Hinckley for the last twenty-five years until failing health about three years ago caused him to retire from active labor. Since then he had made his home with his nephews, James and Orin Wilcox, near Medina.

Mr. Wilcox was a remarkably intelligent, broad-minded man, a kind unselfish neighbor, always ready to lend a helping hand, and will be sadly missed not only by those near to him, but by the communities in which he has lived. His last days were spent in recalling old friends and talking over events of the past with his brother Jay and those about him.

He leaves a brother Jay of the U. S. Revenue Office, Cleveland, and two nephews, James of Medina Center, and Orin Wilcox, of Mallet Creek, to mourn their loss.

Funeral services were held at the residence of his nephew, James Wilcox at Medina Center, on Aug. 29, Rev. C. H. Searles officiating. Interment was made in Spring Grove cemetery.

\$5,000 FIRE LOSS TO WADSWORTH MAN

A large bank barn on the Diagonal road near Wadsworth, belonging to Roland Auble, burned completely to the ground Saturday night, causing a

loss of \$5,000. The owner, Clarence Miller, heard his horse running loose in the barn at about 9 o'clock and went out with a lantern to tie it up. He hung the lantern on an accustomed place and had hardly turned away he claims, when he saw his shadow flickering on the walls. He turned to find the side of the barn a mass of flames which soon swept the entire place.

The entire hay, wheat and barley crop, half of which belonged to Miller and half to Auble, was consumed. In addition all farm implements and machinery were destroyed. No live stock was lost.

The loss of the barn and half the crops was a total one to Auble who had no insurance. Miller had a small amount of insurance.

DID HE HELP INVENT SUBMARINE DESTROYER?

If we are to believe very recent reports, the submarine problem is not insoluble; in fact, it has just about been solved. American scientists and men of inventive genius have been exerting themselves for some time to evolve some method by which the king of war machines could be put out of business, and it appears that that time is at hand. As to the nature of the new submarine device, however, it cannot now be divulged.

Of those who are known to have taken a vital interest in the matter, the Bell Telephone Co. is prominent, and it is said turned over the use of their laboratories for the furthering of the work.

Mr. Clarence Houck, nephew of Mrs. E. R. Root of Medina, is assistant superintendent of the Bell Co., and was a guest of his aunt and family on Thursday of last week. Mr. Houck is said to have been very reticent with reference to his company's connection with the new discovery, but his many friends in Medina, where he formerly resided, and who know of his own native ability as an inventor, will wonder if later it will not appear that the epoch-making war instrument was partly a product of his own genius.

FORMER COPLEY WOMAN REACHES 102-YEAR AGE

Mrs. Emeline Arnold of Sparta, Wisconsin, but for many years a resident of Copley, O., attained the age of 102 years on Thursday of last week, and is the oldest woman in Wisconsin.

She was born in Ellisburg, N. Y., August 22, 1815, and at the age of 18, moved with her brother-in-law, Henry Burr, to Akron. Later the family went to Copley where she met Orville L. Arnold and they were married. Four children were born at Copley, Birchell and Mortimer Arnold of Sparta, Orville of Akron and Ouhila, who died four years ago.

Until two years ago, Mrs. Arnold traveled extensively. She celebrated her 101st birthday by walking around the block where she lived. She at that time attributed her age to the observance of proper rules of living. "I never worry," she said, "and always try to maintain a sunny disposition." Mrs. Arnold is now critically ill.

FIRST MEDINA QUOTA LEAVE WEDNESDAY

Medina and other men called for service in the national army are to be well fed, according to instructions received by local boards. Blanks for issuing transportation have arrived and notice will soon be sent to the drafted men who will be selected for the first increment to leave Sept. 5.

With the transportation blanks came meal tickets which provide that selected men can purchase meals up to 60 cents each and the government will honor the requisition.

The Medina county draft board has been advised that all exemptions recommended by it in the first 375 names called have been approved. The quota from this county to depart Sept. 5, is 39 men. An additional 15 per cent. will receive notification to appear to allow for any who fail to show up at the appointed time. Wadsworth will doubtless be the point from which the 39 men will take leave, although this matter will be verified in the official notice from the board.

The exemptions of the last 100 examined last week will be taken up by the local board next Sunday.

First draft appeals taken on behalf of the government were submitted to the district board of exemption appeals in Cleveland last Friday by Prosecuting Attorney A. B. Underwood.

The decision of the local boards in all but three of eighty-five cases submitted by Attorney Underwood were upheld. The three cases not upheld were deferred for further information.

Of the eighty-five cases, seventy-one were of married men, eleven supporting parents, two aliens, and one a married man with three children, who claimed that his wife had left him.

All the claims had been gone over by Assistant Secretary Johnson and Attorney Edward C. Daoust and on their report the board upheld the decision of the local board in eighty-two cases. The two alien claims and that of the man whose wife had left him were deferred for further particulars.

The board considered thirty-three additional appeals in detail. Of these eighteen were granted, ten denied and five deferred.

NARROWLY ESCAPES DEATH IN RUNAWAY

A runaway occurred on South Court street Monday morning at 11 o'clock, resulting in one horse being nearly killed and the driver, a boy, barely escaping with his life.

The team, belonging to G. Smith of Grangerburg road, had been driven to town by his son and hitched on the east side of South Court street, in front of Miss Hill's millinery store. Before unhitching the team, the boy noticed that the reins required readjusting. He walked out on the tongue, when the team suddenly swung around and dashed down the street, the boy frantically crying for help and unable to free himself. When near the Union hotel one of the horses careened against a huge motor truck belonging to Geo. Mellert and was nearly disemboweled. An auto belonging to C. C. Cheeny, standing immediately behind the truck, sustained a broken windshield, lamp and fender. Both horses fell, the boy rolling from his position ahead of them, uninjured, save from a sprained ankle.

The injured horse was taken to the C. A. Johns veterinary hospital for treatment, where it died a few hours later. Hide from the animal's belly had been ripped off for more than a foot. The other horse was not injured.

42d REGT. REUNION

The annual reunion of the 42d (Garfield's) regiment, O. V. I., was held at Chippewa Lake on Tuesday and Wednesday. There was a good attendance, several members of other regiments, especially the 16th, who had been invited, attending.

FAMILY REUNIONS

The 19th annual reunion of the Ammerman family will be held at Schogalog Park on Wednesday, Sept. 5. E. P. Ammerman, pres., Julia A. Frizzell, sec.

The third annual reunion of the Ives and Cleveland families will be held at the Experiment Station, Wooster, on Monday, Sept. 3.

BODY OF CHILD FOUND IN SEWER

The body of a male child of about six months gestation was discovered Monday morning against the grating of the basin of the north disposal plant. The condition of the body indicated that it had not lain there to exceed 24 or 36 hours.

According to Prosecuting Attorney, who viewed the body, no clew has been found as to the child's parentage, or the criminal who disposed of the body.

Supt. Rollins of the water department, queried the local physicians in an effort to locate the mother, on the obvious assumption of her illness, but without avail.

The coroner was not notified and the body unceremoniously buried.

KELSER REUNION

There was an unusual reunion held in Westerville on Aug. 24 and 25, when the immediate family of the Rev. Philip Kelsner, for forty-six years a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, assembled at the homes of two of the sons, Rev. Milo G. and Paul P. Kelsner, both of whom are engaged in Anti-Saloon League work in Westerville. Rev. Kelsner will be 77 years old in November. For more than 40 years he had active charges in the North Ohio conference of the M. E. church and during the last few years he has given valuable service by supplying vacant pulpits.

This was the first gathering of the entire family since a reunion held in Bloomville in 1900. During the seventeen years the number has increased from nineteen to thirty-four. The seven children and nineteen grandchildren are all living and were present at the reunion at Westerville. The only person absent was a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Charles S. Kelsner of Lorain, who was prevented from coming by the sudden death of a relative. The immediate family circle includes: Rev. and Mrs. Philip Kelsner of Medina, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Willett and five children of Plymouth, Rev. and Mrs. Milo G. Kelsner and four children of Westerville, Prof. and Mrs. G. M. Johnston and three children of Cincinnati, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kelsner and two daughters of Westerville, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Kelsner, their three children, and Fred Kelsner, the youngest son, all of Medina. Other relatives present at the reunion were Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Hoffman and Miss Hattie Nelson, all of Akron.

On Friday afternoon, a group picture was taken and a musical program given. There were piano, violin, and bass viol selections, and then in addition to songs and recitations by the smaller children, there were vocal numbers of various kinds. A feature of the program was the selection by the double sextet of male voices. Friday evening was spent in singing the hymns most dear—those familiar to all since childhood. As was fitting, the group was dismissed by a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing spoken by the father and grandfather, in whose honor the reunion was held.

BARN BURNED DOWN

A barn on the Mrs. Mary Everhard farm just north of Wadsworth burned to the ground Monday afternoon, Sam Carshman, a junk dealer, had the use of a shed nearby and it is thought the fire started from the junk there. It was discovered by Harry Watts after it had a good start, and the entire contents were burned. The greatest loss was in the wheat which belonged to Mrs. Everhard and to Noah Sprunger.

Sharon Singer in New York Play



Miss Lucille Ager, distinguished and charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ager of Sharon Center will return to New York in September to join the Maude Adams company in "A Kiss for Cinderella," portraying the famous painting, "Mona Lisa." Miss Ager, who is a singer and pianist, played the same part during the company's New York engagement.